

# RACIAL STRUCTURE OF THE FINNS OF THE NORTHERNMOST PART OF SWEDEN

## A SHORT ANALYSIS AND A PRELIMINARY SURVEY

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IT is indeed an attractive undertaking to analyse, by means of anthropological, genetical and genealogical methods, a strongly race-mixed population, and try to find out the different race-elements, whereof it consists, so as to be able to state approximately the percentage of the different race-components.

The population of Norrbotten, the northernmost province of Sweden, is more variable, externally and internally, than any other province of Sweden. This is due to the fact that three different races, the *Nordic* (or Teutonic), the *Finnic* and the *Lappic*, for a long time past have had their dwelling-place in this part of our country. Numerous race-mixtures have meanwhile arisen, which has brought about that in certain districts different folk- and race-types of the most varying kind may be found without difficulty. This is especially so in the most northerly parts of Norrbotten, in the so-called Territory of the Finns (see sketch), where the Finnish language is spoken practically everywhere in the homes by the permanent inhabitants. The nomadic Lapps of this district speak their own language as well as Finnish; the few Swedes — for the most part consisting of civil servants and their families — use of course their mother tongue, Swedish. The Finnish-speaking population of the whole province consisted in 1920 of about 29.000 persons; during fifty years they have more than doubled (see Table 1). In 1870 the Lapp population of the whole province consisted of 4.260 persons; during the last fifty years it has increased very little. However, a surplus birth-rate has existed among the Lapps for a long time, and this has been greater than is shown in table 1.

The fact is that during all times a considerable number of Lapps have been obliged to abandon their nomadic life, mostly on account of financial difficulties, after which they soon become denationalized

and settle down as a part of the resident population. As a matter of course race-mixtures soon occur. The Swedish element in the far north (in ancient times as well as now) has, comparatively speaking, always easily adopted Finnish language and customs.

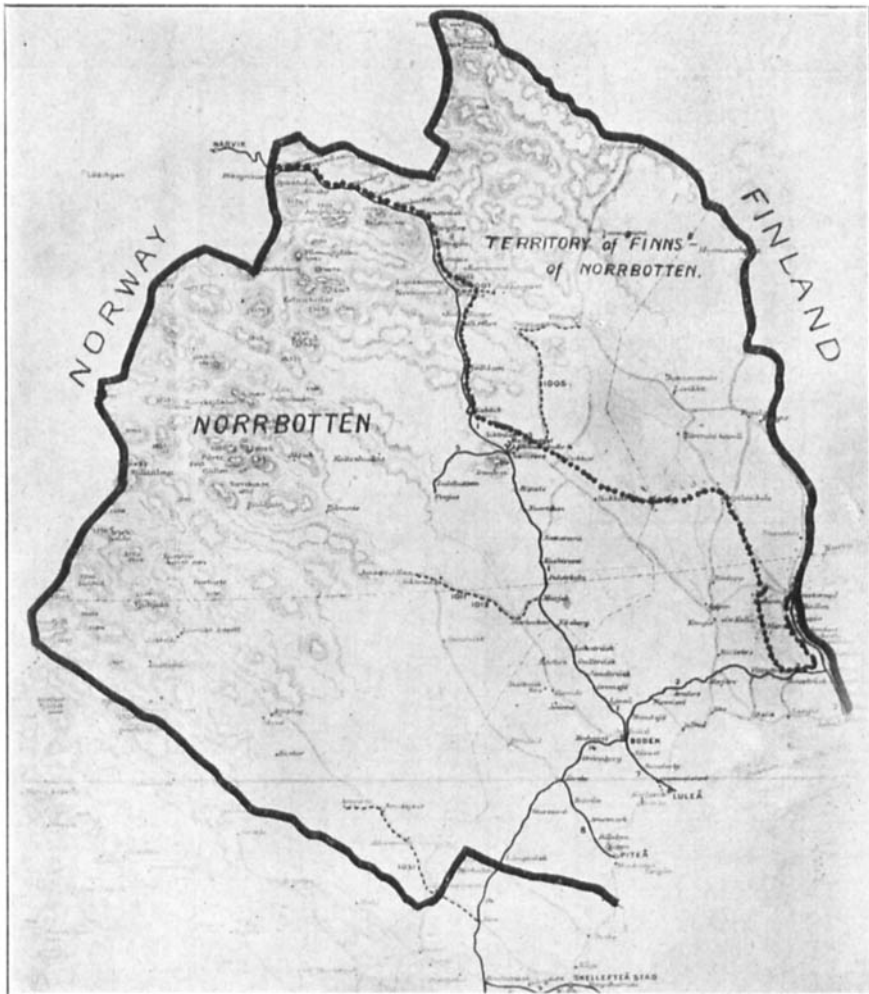


Fig. 1.

The villages, which in later times have been founded in the Territory of the Finns, and which lie nearer to the mountains of the west, viz. in real Lappland, have as a rule a darker population, e. g. more mixed with Lappic elements. The larger and older villages along the

Torneå river, on the contrary, have mostly a fairer population with less Lappic and more Finnish or Swedish blood. Thus racial changes of considerable magnitude are found to take place in the different districts.

TABLE 1. *The increase in the population of the province of Norrbotten during the years 1870—1920, giving the numbers of Swedish, Finnish and Lappish inhabitants according to the official statistics of Sweden.*

Folk-group	1870	1890	1910	1920	Increase 1870—1920
Swedes .....	57,782	81,172	132,047	149,488	91,706
»Finns» .....	14,015	19,345	24,755	29,028	15,013
Lapps .....	4,260	4,266	4,330	4,437	177
Total	76,057	104,783	161,132	182,953	106,896

When one has to separate different folk- or race-groups found within one and the same territory from each other, one cannot make use of philological, distinguishing marks, for quite different nations not seldom speak the same language. The limits of speech and race

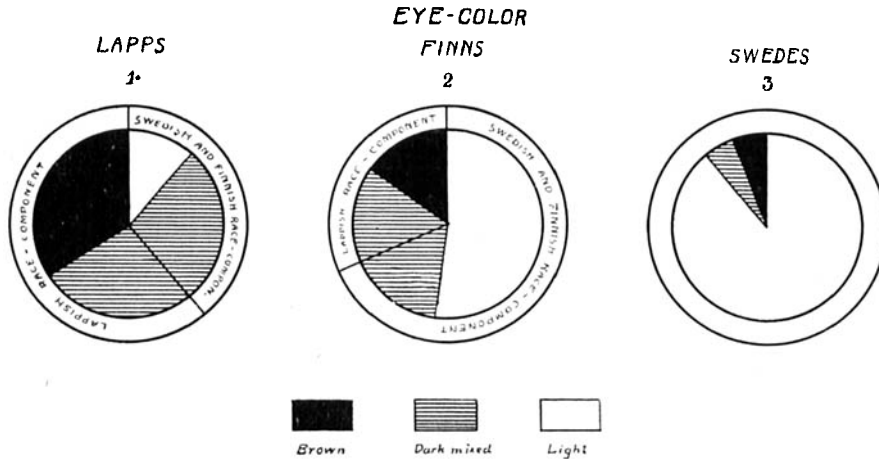


Fig. 2.

thus are not coincident. It belongs to anthropology and race-biology, with their special methods, to state the characteristic similarities and dissimilarities which distinguish and divide the population into important race-groups or race-components.

The bulk of people in the far north of Sweden consists, as I have mentioned before, of »Finns», Swedes and Lapps, distributed in different proportions and combinations all over this extensive territory. Other folk-elements, such as gipsies, descendants of Walloons and Alpines form a very small part of the population as a whole and do not therefore need to be considered. The Lapps are by nature a

TABLE 2. *Colour of eyes. Male sex.*

Population	Number examined	%			Notes
		light	mixed	brown	
Nomadic Lapps in Norrbotten .....	282	11,0	53,5	35,5	The number of brown eyes plus 50 % of mixed eyes (= 62,2 % together) ought to correspond to the Lappic race-component on the whole.
Finns (= people speaking Finnish) in Norrbotten from widely separated parts of the Territory of the Finns .....	854	52,6	32,7	14,4	The number of light eyes plus 50 % of the mixed eyes ought to correspond with the Finnic and Nordic race-components on the whole. The rest (= 30,8 % ) corresponds to the Lappic component.
Swedes (= conscripts from Swedish-speaking parts of Norrbotten and from the county of Skaraborg) .....	786	89,6	5,1	5,3	See above.

dark people; the Finns and Swedes on the other hand are fair. The colour of eyes, which is inherited in a simple way following a precise law, may on this account be used as a good distinguishing mark and as a criterion of the amount of race-mixture between Lapps on the one side and fair types (Finns and Swedes) on the other. Numerous genealogical investigations, which I have carried out in the Territory of the Finns in Norrbotten, have taught me, that practically all dark persons living there are either pure bred Lapps or descendants of such. This is on the whole also applicable to persons with dark-mixed eyes.

These latter are individuals of mixed race, with Lappic—Finnic, Lappic—Swedish or Lappic—Finnic—Swedish descent. They are heterozygotes between a dark race (Lapps) and one or two fair races (Finns and Swedes).

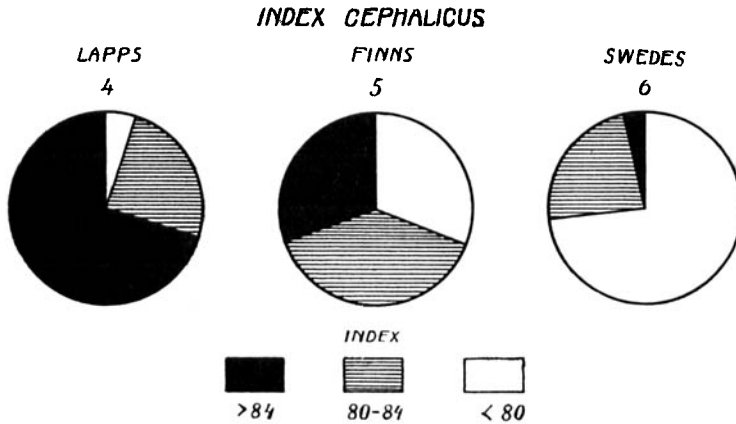


Fig. 3.

On these grounds one may safely and without making very great mistakes state how large the Lappic race-component is in the Territory

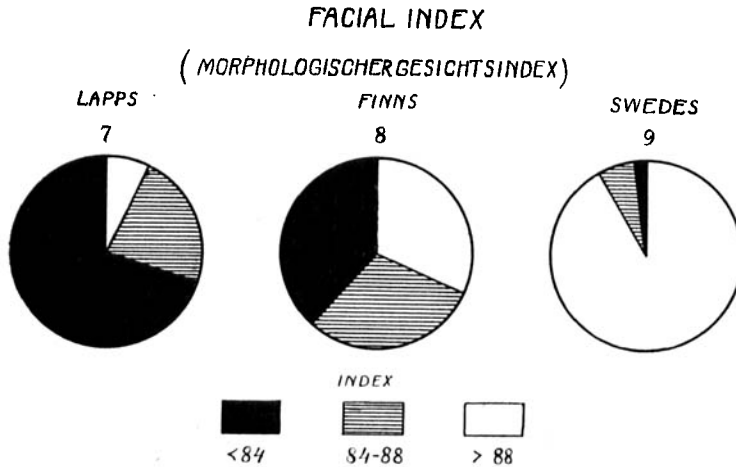


Fig. 4.

of the Finns in Norrbotten by reckoning the number of persons with brown eyes and adding 50 % of the heterozygotes having dark-mixed eyes to this number. If we make such a calculation we shall find that the Torneå Lapps (see Table 2, and Diagram 1) are of Lappic

race to about two-thirds ( $= 62,2 \%$ ) and of Finnic and Nordic race (i. e. of Swedish or Norwegian descent) to about one-third.

In the same way we may calculate, that the Lappic race is found in the Finnic population to an extent of about one-third ( $= 30,8 \%$ ). Diagram 2 shows this. Among the Swedish-speaking population of Norrbotten and Västergötland — conscripts used for comparison —

TABLE 3. *Index cephalicus*. Male sex.

Population	Number examined	Index %			Average %	Notes
		< 80	80—84	> 84		
Nomadic Lapps, 18—50 years old .....	116	4,3	25,0	70,7	85,5	The index number above 84 is marked black on the diagram and considered a Lappic racial characteristic.
Finns ( = Finnish speaking population in Norrbotten) 18—50 years old .....	199	30,2	40,2	29,6	82,2	The index number between 80—84 is marked with lines on the diagrams and is considered a Finnish racial characteristic.
Swedes (= conscripts from the Swedish-speaking parts of Norrbotten and from the county of Skaraborg.) .....	770	73,2	23,0	3,8	78,5	The index number below 80 has been left uncoloured and is considered a Nordic radical characteristic.

dark eyes appear only to a small extent, which is also shown in diagram 3.

So far we may come with our analysis by following the colour of eyes, but not further. It remains then to try to verify these results by means of other important racial characteristics, and besides, to try to separate the Finnic and the Nordic races from each other. For this reason I have included both cephalic-index and morphological facial-index. Tables 3 and 4 show that Lapps, Finns and Swedes are decidedly distinguishable in these respects (compare the different average indexes in the last columns). The Torneå Lapps, which nowadays are

very mixed, have round heads with an average index of 85.5. Lapps of pure race certainly have a still higher average index. MANTEGAZZA and SOMMIER thus state (in *Studii antropologici sui Lapponi*, Firenze 1880) that grown-up Mountain-Lapps of male sex to a number of 64 showed an average cephalic index of 87.6. The minimum was 82, the maximum 95. The Finns are also a short-skulled race, although having a smaller index (average index 82.2). The Swedes, on the

TABLE 4. *Morphological facial-index. Male sex.*

Population	Number examined	Index %			Average %	Notes
		> 88	84—88	< 84		
Nomadic Lapps 18—50 years old .....	111	7,2	22,5	70,3	82,0	The index number below 84 is marked black on the diagrams and is considered a Lappic racial characteristic.
Finns (= the Finnish speaking population of Norrbotten) 18—50 years old .....	166	31,3	30,1	38,6	85,6	The index number between 84—88 is marked by lines on the diagrams and is considered a Finnish racial characteristic.
Swedes (= conscripts from the Swedish-speaking parts of Norrbotten and from the county of Skaraborg) .....	770	91,2	6,9	1,9	95,1	The index number above 88 has been left uncoloured on the diagrams and is considered a Nordic racial characteristic.

contrary, have somewhat longer heads (average index 78.5). If persons with an index number above 84 are counted as Lapps (i. e. as Lappic race-component), those having an index between 80 and 84 as Finns, and the rest with an index number below 80 as Swedes of Nordic race, it is seen from the diagrams 4, 5 and 6, made by the guidance of these index numbers, that there is a great correspondence between these diagrams and the diagrams of the colour of eyes. These diagrams also show that Lappic head-measures (indexes) are found in about two-thirds of the Lapps and in about one-third of the Finns.

The Nordic race seems to be about as strongly represented among the Finnish-speaking population of Norrbotten as the Lappic race (the Nordic and Lappic race together form about 60 %). The pure Finnic race-component is somewhat greater than the other two taken separately; it amounts to about 40 %.

Table 4, which gives some values as to the morphological facial-index, points in the same direction, although with a slight preponderance of Nordic (Swedish) race as a race-component in the Finnish population. Diagrams 7—9 show this clearly.

As the investigations in Norrbotten are not finished yet — new material is being collected every year — the conclusions at which I have arrived, must be considered preliminary. I have myself been surprised to find the Nordic as well as the Lappic race-component so great among the Finnish-speaking population of Norrbotten, that on the whole it may be considered as equal to the Finnic race-component. This may fully explain the differences, which in many respects are found between our »Finnish» population and the more purely bred population of Finland.

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